

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13643 100946Z

11  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /074 W  
----- 054614

P R 100759Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2173  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, JA, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE ON MIG DEFECTOR

REF: TOKYO 13511

1. SUMMARY: SOV AMBASSADOR POLYANSKY CALLED ON  
DEP FONMIN ARITA SEPT 9 TO DEMAND RETURN OF MIG 25  
AND PILOT AND PROTEST JAPANESE HANDLING OF CASE AS  
UNFRIENDLY ACT IN VIOLATION OF JAPAN-SOVIET CONSULAR  
AGREEMENT. HE WARNED GOJ AGAINST INFLUENCE OF THIRD  
COUNTRY. ARITA TOLD POLYANSKY THAT HE WOULD REFER  
SOVIET REQUEST ON PLANE TO SUPERIORS; THAT BELENKO  
HAD DEFECTED OF HIS FREE WILL; AND THAT JAPAN WAS  
PUZZLED BY LACK OF ANY EXPRESSION OF SOVIET REGRET  
OVER VIOLATION OF JAPANESE AIRSPACE. AS FAR AS  
THIRD-POWER INFLUENCE CONCERNED, JAPAN OPERATED  
AS INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, HE SAID. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS SEPT 10 ASAHI NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT  
OF HOUR LONG POLYANSKY-ARITA MEETING. WE HAVE  
CHECKED WITH FONOFF SOURCES AND FOUND THAT IT IS  
ACCURATE.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13643 100946Z

3. BEGIN TRANSLATION:

GIST OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT

WE REPEATEDLY MADE REQUESTS FOR THE HANDING OVER TO OUR SIDE OF PILOT BELENKO WHO WAS COMPELLED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT HAKODATE AIRPORT IN JAPAN ON SEPTEMBER 6, AND THE SOVIET PLANE, BUT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REPLIED TO THIS SO FAR. DURING THIS TIME, PHYSICAL FORCE AND OTHER IMPERMISSIBLE METHODS WERE USED TOWARD THE SOVIET PILOT, AND MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME. AS SEEN BY MANY MILLIONS OF JAPANESE PEOPLE ON TELEVISION, A BAG WAS PLACED ON THE PILOT'S HEAD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS TRANSFER TO TOKYO, AND POLICEMEN, PULLING HIS ARMS FROM BOTH SIDES PUSHED HIM INTO THE CAR WITH FORCE, AND PRESSED HIS HEAD DOWN ON THE SEAT. THIS SHOWS THAT THE STORY ABOUT HIS SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM OF HIS OWN FREE WILL IS NOTHING BUT A FABRICATION.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSING TO LET THE SOVIET SIDE'S REPRESENTATIVE SEE THE PILOT IS CLEARLY A VIOLATION OF ARTICLES 31 AND 32 OF THE JAPAN-SOVIET CONSULAR AGREEMENT. IT CANNOT BUT BE CONSIDERED THAT SUCH ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE CLEARLY AN UNFRIENDLY ACT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, IT IS SAID THAT THERE WAS INTERVENTION BY A THIRD POWER. WE HOPE THAT, IN THIS INCIDENT, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TAKE ACTIONS, FOLLOWING THE SUGGESTION OF OUTSIDE FORCES OR INTERESTS. THIS WILL DEFINITELY NOT HAVE GOOD EFFECTS ON JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT CANNOT BUT ONCE AGAIN STRONGLY DEMAND THE EARLY RETURN OF THE PILOT AND THE AIRPLANE. WE EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WILL ADOPT POLICIES WHICH WILL BE IN ACCORD WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, PILED UP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

GIST OF THE JAPANESE SIDE'S STATEMENTS

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 13643 100946Z

WE CANNOT BUT FEEL A SENSE OF SURPRISE AT THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS NOT EXPRESSED ANY SENSE OF REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT THIS TIME.

THE INCIDENT THIS TIME WAS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A FIGHTER PLANE, BELONGING TO THE SOVIET AIR FORCE, VIOLATED OUR COUNTRY'S TERRITORIAL SKIES, MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT A CIVIL AIRPORT OF OUR COUNTRY, CAUSED DAMAGE TO AIRPORT FACILITIES,

AND WHICH MADE US HARBOR THE SUSPICION THAT IT WAS  
A GRAVE INFRINGEMENT ON THE SECURITY OF OUR  
COUNTRY. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS GREAT  
INTEREST IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

LT. BELENKO HAS NOT BEEN ARRESTED, AND IS NOT  
BEING DETAINED BY THE JAPANESE SIDE. HE IS BEING  
HELD IN PROTECTION, AT HIS OWN REQUEST. THE  
SUBJECT HIMSELF IS NOT DESIRING AN INTERVIEW WITH  
THE MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY OR THE CONSULATE.  
HOWEVER, THE JAPANESE SIDE IS PREPARED TO OFFER  
GOOD OFFICES TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW TODAY (9TH),  
TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE WISHES OF THE SOVIET  
EMBASSY. IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN  
NO VIOLATION OF THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT ON THE PART  
OF JAPAN.

(EMBASSY COMMENT: BELENKO MET WITH SOV REPS FOR 13 MINUTES  
BEFORE DEPARTURE.)

LT. BELENKO DESIRES DEFECTION TO THE US, BASED  
ON HIS OWN FREE WILL, FREELY EXPRESSED. OUR COUNTRY  
DOES NOT RECOGNIZE POLITICAL ASYLUM. HOWEVER, IF  
THE WISH TO PROCEED TO A THIRD NATION IS EXPRESSED,  
AS THE PERSON'S OWN INTENTION, THE RESPECTING OF  
THIS WISH IS THE POSITION WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT HAS  
BEEN TAKING FROM BEFORE.

THE DEMAND FOR THE HANDING OVER OF THE PLANE  
WILL BE TAKEN NOTE OF, AND WILL BE TRANSMITTED  
TO MY SUPERIORS.

"INFLUENCE OF A THIRD POWER" WAS MENTIONED.  
HOWEVER, JAPAN IS AN INDEPENDENT NATION, AND THERE  
IS ABSOLUTELY NO SUCH FACT AS ITS BEING UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF A THIRD NATION.

AS REGARDS JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, WE DESIRE THAT  
GOOD-NEIGHBORLY AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE  
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PAGE 04 TOKYO 13643 100946Z

TO DEVELOP. WE ASK YOU TO TAKE NOTE OF THE  
FACT THAT THE INCIDENT THIS TIME OCCURRED  
SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE BLUE, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE  
WISHES OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.  
END TRANSLATION.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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